

**PATENT**

Atty. Docket No. 2776 (203-3096 PCT US)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Russell Heinrich et al.

Examiner: To be Assigned

Serial No.: 10/510,940

Group Art Unit: To be Assigned

Filed: October 8, 2004

Dated: November 9, 2004

For: SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS INCLUDING MEMS DEVICES

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicant(s) duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the cited U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications are not provided pursuant to the waiver of this requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 for national applications filed after June 30, 2003. Foreign patent documents and other prior art is enclosed.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: November 9, 2004



Francesco Sardone

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

- ☒ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.
- ☐ This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application.
- ☒ To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.
- ☐ Enclosed herewith is a certificate under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ Enclosed herewith is a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(ii).

☐ Enclosed by check is the petition fee of \$130.00. (37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1))

☐ Please charge the \$130.00 petition fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.

☐ Enclosed by check is the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

☐ Please charge the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.

☒ Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and/or 1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account 21-0550. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 21-0550 therefor.

TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED.

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance.

Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Francesco Sardone

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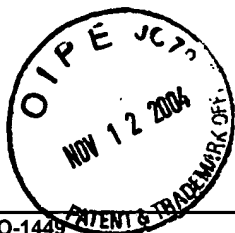
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Form PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)				Docket Number (Optional) 2776 (203-3096 PCT US)		Application Number 10/510,940	
				Applicants Russell Heinrich et al.			
				Filing Date October 8, 2004		Group Art Number TBD	

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No
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		0 738 501	10/23/96	EP				
		WO 99/52489	10/21/99	PCT				
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OTHER DOCUMENTS	
	P. Detemple, "Microtechnology in Modern Health Care", <i>Medical Device Technology</i> , pp. 18-25, (1998)

Examiner	Date Considered
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or nor citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.	